United Nations S/2000/819

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 21 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press release on the final communiqué on the second Summit of the signatories to the Agreement for a Ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was held in Lusaka, on 14 and 15 August 2000.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Final communiqué of the second Summit of signatories to the Agreement for a Ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in Lusaka on 14 and 15 August 2000

1. At the invitation of President Frederick J. T. Chiluba, the signatories to the Agreement for a Ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo held their second Summit in Lusaka on 14 and 15 August 2000 as a follow-up to their first Summit which took place in Lusaka on 23 February 2000.

2. The Summit was attended by all the signatories to the Agreement, namely: the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe and the Minister of Defense of Angola, as well as leaders of the following non-State parties; the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) and the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC). The witnesses to the Ceasefire Agreement, namely, Zambia, the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat also attended the Summit.

3. The following Heads of State and Government of the SADC member States non-signatories to the Agreement also participated in the Summit: His Majesty the King of Swaziland, the Presidents of Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana, the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Lesotho and the High Commissioner of Mauritius to Zambia.

4. The Summit, among other things, addressed ceasefire violations, deployment of United Nations military observers, resources of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) and inter-Congolese political negotiations.

5. The Summit, from the outset, reaffirmed its strong support for the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement as the only accepted and viable basis for resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. With regard to ceasefire violations, the Summit regretted the fact that ceasefire violations have persisted. It affirmed the validity of the Kampala plan for the disengagement and redeployment of forces adopted on 8 April 2000 as the appropriate framework for addressing ceasefire violations. The Summit welcomed the initiative of Rwanda to withdraw 200 km from the positions declared in the disengagement plan and the parties reaffirmed their commitment to begin and/or proceed with the withdrawals of at least 15 km from their declared positions in conformity with the plan. The parties committed themselves not to take advantage of the withdrawals by occupying the vacated areas.

7. On the issue of deployment of United Nations military observers the Summit welcomed the readiness of the United Nations to commence such deployment. The Summit acknowledged, however, that existing conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have not made it possible for the deployment to begin. To this effect, the Summit recalled the guarantees it had given in February 2000 to

ensure the safety, protection and freedom of movement of United Nations observers and personnel, which are also required by Security Council resolutions 1291 (2000) and 1304 (2000). The Summit, therefore, appealed to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate fully with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and to satisfy the conditions necessary for the speedy deployment of the military observers.

8. The Summit expressed serious concern about the critical shortage of resources for the JMC, in particular funds to meet operational costs, as well as for essential equipment to enable the JMC to carry out its mandate of verifying ceasefire violations and monitoring the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement. To this effect, the Summit made an earnest appeal to the international community to urgently make available adequate resources to the JMC.

9. Regarding inter-Congolese political negotiations, the Summit addressed the difficulties that had stalled the facilitation. In this connection, the Summit with the exception of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reaffirmed its support for the Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire. In the light of this, an appeal was made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reconsider its decision in order to ensure the speedy finalization of arrangements for the convening of the national dialogue.

10. Gravely concerned at the immense suffering which the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are undergoing as a result of the war, the Summit stressed the urgent need to alleviate this suffering. To this end, the Summit urged all the parties to facilitate the implementation of humanitarian operations by granting unhindered access of humanitarian and aid agencies and workers to the vulnerable population and victims of war, and in particular the refugees and displaced persons who are in desperate need of medical and food assistance.

11. The Summit expressed gratitude to President Frederick Chiluba and to the Government and people of Zambia for the excellent facilities put at its disposal and for their kind hospitality.

Lusaka, 15 August 2000